

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

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OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-01 OES-03

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AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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NOTE: MSG POUCHED TO ALL CONSULATES IN GERMANY.

EO:11652 N/A

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SUBJECT: CHANCELLOR'S BERLIN ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

REF: BONN A-605, DECEMBER 9

1. SUMMARY: CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S OCTOBER 16 BERLIN CONFERENCE WITH LEADERS OF WEST GERMAN AND BERLIN INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE WAS BRIEF, WELL-STAGED AFFAIR, WHICH FROM FRG SIDE WAS SCHEDULED MORE TO FURTHER DOMESTIC POLITICAL MANEUVERING THAN TO SEEK SERIOUSLY NEW INITIATIVES FOR FURTHERANCE OF BERLIN'S ECONOMY. CONFERENCE SERVED ANCILLARY PURPOSE OF FURTHERING TIES IN UNOBJECTIONABLE MANNER. END SUMMARY.

2. POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR CONFERENCE WAS BOOKLET

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PREPARED BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY CONTAINING

CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE BERLIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THREE SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED GENERAL ENDORSEMENT AND ONE WAS SPECIFICALLY REJECTED.

3. CONFERENCE AGREED BERLIN SHOULD SERVE AS CENTER FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON EAST-WEST TRADE, DIRECTED PARTICULARLY AT SERVING MIDDLE AND SMALLER BUSINESSES. BERLIN SHOULD ALSO BE FAVORED IN AWARD OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CONTRACTS, ESPECIALLY IN ELECTRONICS. FINALLY, BERLIN SHOULD BE CENTER FOR ATTRACTION OF MORE AND BROADER INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RECOMMENDATION THAT SPECIAL OFFICE FOR BERLIN AFFAIRS SHOULD BE SET UP IN CHANCELLERY IN BONN WAS NOT ACTED UPON. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT BRUSQUELY FIELDERD QUESTION ON THIS PROPOSAL DURING HIS PRESS CONFERENCE.

4. SOPHISTICATED EXPECTATIONS HAD NOT BEEN HIGH FOR CONCRETE RESULTS FROM THIS CONFERENCE. BERLIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICIAL WHO HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN SETTING UP CONFERENCE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SOME MEMBERS OF HIS ORGANIZATION HAD UNEASY FEELING THEY HAD BEEN USED. BERLIN CHAMBER HAD SOUGHT ORIGINALLY TO INITIATE CONTINUING "DIALOGUE" WITH BONN ON WHAT IT SAW AS MEASURES NEEDED TO OVERCOME POLITICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL DISADVANTAGES OF CITY STEMMING FROM WHOLE POST-WAR ENVIRONMENT. SUGGESTION HAD BEEN PICKED UP WITH ALACRITY IN BONN AND QUICKLY BACKED BY SENAT. IT SOON BECAME EVIDENT SUPPORT CAME BECAUSE CONFERENCE CONCEPT FITTED IN WELL WITH POLITICAL DESIRE TO SHOW SPD AND FDP CONCERN FOR BERLIN AT TIME WHEN BERLIN ELECTION CAMPAIGN GETTING UNDER WAY. BERLIN COMMERZ BANK DIRECTOR WHO ATTENDED CONFERENCE OBSERVED THAT SOME WEST GERMAN BUSINESS LEADERS WHOM HE PERSONALLY KNEW HAD ATTENDED CONFERENCE TO MAINTAIN THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT. BY AGREEING TO KEEP CONFERENCE BUSINESS CONFINED TO MORNING OF 16TH, THEY HAD BEEN ABLE TO GET BUSINESS DONE WITH THEIR BERLIN BRANCHES IN AFTERNOON. NO ONE FAULTED PROPOSITION THAT CONFERENCE HAD BEEN UNOBJECTIONABLE DEMONSTRATION OF FRG-BERLIN INTEREST IN MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF TIES.SELIGMANN

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